IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel withdrawn claims 7 and 9-13. N-E.

Please enter the following rewritten claims. A marked up version of the rewritten claims, and a clean version of all pending claims are attached at the end of this document.

4. (Four Times Amended) A kit for diagnosing an autoimmune disease, the kit comprising:

a first antigen selected from the group consisting of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence homology of 90% or more with SEQ ID NO:1, and a fragment of said polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide or fragment thereof specifically binds with an antibody from an autoimmune disease patient;

a second antigen selected from the group consisting of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence homology of 80% or more with SEQ ID NO:2, and a fragment of said polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide or fragment thereof specifically binds with an antibody from an autoimmune disease patient;

a first component for detecting a first antigen-antibody complex; and

a second component for detecting a second antigen-antibody complex; wherein the autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, human systemic lupus erythematosus, Sjögren's syndrome, Behçet's disease, primary biliary cirrhosis, microscopic polyangiitis/polyarteritis nodosa, ulcerative colitis, Chrohn's disease and autoimmune hepatitis.

6. (Twice Amended) The kit of claim 4, wherein:

the polypeptide having an amino acid sequence homology of 90% or more with SEQ ID NO:1 is selected from human, bovine, porcine, or rat HMG-1; and

the polypeptide having an amino acid sequence homology of 90% or more with SEQ ID NO:2 is selected from human, bovine, porcine, chicken, mouse, or rat HMG-2.

14. (Twice Amended) A diagnostic drug for detecting an antibody of autoimmune diseases, wherein: the drug comprises:

a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence homology of 90% or more with SEQ ID NO:1, or a fragment of said polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide or fragment

thereof specifically binds with an antibody from an autoimmune disease patient; or

a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence homology of 80% or more with SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment of said polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide or fragment thereof specifically binds with an antibody from an autoimmune disease patient;

wherein the autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, human systemic lupus erythematosus, Sjögren's syndrome, Behçet's disease, primary biliary cirrhosis, microscopic polyangitis/polyarteritis nodosa, ulcerative colitis, Chrohn's disease and autoimmune hepatitis.

16. (Amended) The diagnostic drug of claim 14, wherein:

the polypeptide having an amino acid sequence homology of 90% or more with SEQ ID NO:1 is human HMG-1, bovine HMG-1, porcine HMG-1, or rat HMG-1; and

the polypeptide having an amino acid sequence homology of 80% or more with SEQ ID NO:2 is human HMG-2, bovine HMG-2, porcine HMG-2, chicken HMG-2, mouse HMG-2, or rat HMG-2.

REMARKS

Applicant's proposed amendments filed on May 31, 2002 were not entered by the Examiner, as they allegedly raised new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. Of the pending claims, claims 4, 6, 14, and 16 are rewritten. Withdrawn claims 7 and 9-13 have been cancelled. With this response, claims 4, 6, 14, and 16 are now pending.

During a telephone call between the Examiner and Christopher Buntel on July 15, 2002, the Examiner suggested that a supplemental response be filed explaining how the specification supported the breadth of the pending claims. This response has been prepared in light of the Examiner's request.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due at this time; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this document, the